

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		NUMBER:
SUBJECT: SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES IN THE EASTERN REGION	DATE: <i>amended</i> SEP 23 2010	
	OPI: Forest Service	

1 AUTHORITY

The Charter for the Eastern Region Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) is hereby established pursuant to the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. No. 106-393) (Act) as amended by the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-343, Division C, Title VI) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. II.

2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- a The purpose of each RAC is to improve collaborative relations and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service and other land management agencies consistent with the Division C, Title VI of Pub. L. 110-343.
- b This regulation charts the following RACs in Maine:
 - (1) White Mountain Resource Advisory Committee advising the White Mountain National Forest in Oxford County.
- c This regulation charts the following RACs in Michigan:
 - (1) Hiawatha West Resource Advisory Committee advising the Hiawatha National Forest in Delta County,
 - (2) Hiawatha East Resource Advisory Committee advising the Hiawatha National Forest in Chippewa County,
 - (3) Gogebic Resource Advisory Committee advising the Ottawa National Forest in Gogebic County,
 - (4) Huron-Manistee Resource Advisory Committee advising the Huron and the Manistee National Forests in Crawford, Mackinac, Manistee, Newaygo, and Oscoda Counties, and

- (5) Ontonagon Resource Advisory Committee advising the Ottawa National Forest in Ontonagon County.

d This regulation charters the following RACs in Minnesota:

- (1) Chippewa National Forest Resource Advisory Committee advising the Chippewa National Forest in Beltrami, Cass, Itasca Counties, and
- (2) Superior Resource Advisory Committee advising the Superior National Forest in Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties.

e This regulation charters the following RAC in Missouri:

- (1) Eleven Point Resource Advisory Committee advising the Mark Twain National Forest in Oregon, Ripley, and Shannon Counties.

f This regulation charters the following RAC in Pennsylvania:

- (1) Allegheny Resource Advisory Committee advising the Allegheny National Forest in Forest and Warren Counties.

g This regulation charters the following RAC in West Virginia:

- (1) West Virginia Resource Advisory Committee advising the Monongahela National Forest in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, and Webster Counties, and the George Washington National Forest in Hardy County.

h This regulation charters the following RACs in Wisconsin:

- (1) Chequamegon Resource Advisory Committee advising the Chequamegon National Forest in Ashland, Bayfield, Price, Sawyer, and Taylor Counties and
- (2) Nicolet Resource Advisory Committee advising the Nicolet National Forest in Forest and Oconto Counties.

3 DUTIES

- a The RAC shall review projects proposed under Title II of the Act by participating counties and other persons.
- b The RAC shall propose projects and funding to the Secretary of Agriculture under Section 203 of the Act.

- c The RAC shall provide early and continuous coordination with appropriate Forest Service officials in recommending projects consistent with Title II of the Act.
- d The RAC shall provide frequent opportunities for citizens, organizations, tribes, land management agencies, and other interested parties to participate openly and meaningfully, beginning at the early stages of the project development process under Title II of the Act.
- e The RAC shall monitor projects that have been approved under Section 204 and advise the designated Federal official on the progress of the monitoring efforts.
- f The RAC shall make recommendations to the Secretary concerned for any appropriate changes or adjustments to the projects being monitored by the resource advisory committee.
- g The RAC may create and operate subcommittees recommended by a majority of the committee members and approved by the Secretary or the DFO.
- h Consistent with applicable laws and Departmental Regulations, each RAC may adopt such by-laws or rules of operation as it deems advisable.

4 REPORTS

The RAC reports to the Secretary of Agriculture through the appropriate Designated Federal Officer.

5 SUPPORT

Support for the RAC shall be provided by the Forest Service.

6 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATIONS COSTS/STAFF YEARS

- a Annual operating costs are estimated to be \$600,000 with 6.0 full time equivalent staff support.
- b Members of the Committee serve without compensation. Reimbursement for travel and per diem for attendance at RAC meetings called by the Chairperson and with an agenda approved by the DFO will be determined on a forest basis with a view to budgetary constraints and the need to achieve adequate representation of necessary groups.

7 DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER

- a The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint a full-time employee as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) under sections 10(e) and (f) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. II, for each RAC. The DFO will:
 - (1) Approve or call all of the advisory committee and subcommittee meetings;
 - (2) Prepare and approve all meeting agendas;
 - (3) Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings;
 - (4) Adjourn any meeting when he or she determines adjournment to be in the public interest; and
 - (5) Chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary of Agriculture.

8 ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- a The RAC will meet as often as is necessary to complete their business.
- b A majority of the members of a RAC must be present to constitute an official meeting of the committee.
- c The approval of a majority of the members of each of the three membership categories of the RAC shall be required to approve a project for recommendation to the Secretary.

9 DURATION AND TERMINATION

- a This regulation will expire 2 years from the date of filing unless renewed.

10 MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION

- a Each RAC shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Committee members shall be representative of the interests of the following three categories:
 - (1) Five persons who—

- (a) Represent organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester group;
 - (b) Represent developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;
 - (c) Represent energy and mineral development, or commercial or recreational fishing interests;
 - (d) Represent the commercial timber industry; or
 - (e) Hold Federal grazing permits or other land use permits or represent non-industrial private forest land owners, within the area for which the committee is organized.
- (2) Five persons representing—
- (a) Nationally recognized environmental organizations;
 - (b) Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations;
 - (c) Dispersed recreational activities;
 - (d) Archaeological and historical interests; or
 - (e) Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations.
- (3) Five persons who—
- (a) Hold State-elected office or their designee;
 - (b) Hold county- or local-elected office;
 - (c) Represent American Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized;
 - (d) Area school officials or teachers; or
 - (e) Represent the affected public-at-large.
- b The Secretary shall appoint one replacement for each of the three membership categories.
- c RAC members shall serve 4-year terms.

- d The Chairperson of the RAC shall be elected by the RAC from among its members for a term of 1 year.
- e Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, shall be followed in all membership appointments to the committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.
- f If a RAC member fails to attend (in person or by telephonic or electronic means) two consecutive official meetings, the Secretary may remove that member from the RAC.
- g If a vacancy occurs on a RAC, the replacement, if available, may fill the vacancy with the approval of the Designated Federal Officer. If an appropriate replacement is not available, a new member shall be appointed to the vacancy in the same manner as the original appointment. A replacement or a new member who fills a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his/her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of the term.
- h Membership shall be a balanced and broad representation from within each of the three membership categories.
- i Members shall reside within the State or States in which the RAC has jurisdiction. To the extent practicable, each of the three categories shall be composed of local representatives.

11 RECORDKEEPING

The records for the Eastern Region RACs shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

12 INTERPRETATION

For guidance as to its duties, the RAC should consult the Act (copy attached). In the event the RAC is uncertain with regard to its duties or procedures, it should consult the appropriate Designated Federal Officer. The Secretary shall resolve ambiguities using first, the law, and then any relevant legislative history.